

High School District 214

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Dr. David R. Schuler Superintendent

Board of Education

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The Honorable Elizabeth Hernandez Illinois State Representative, 24th District Assistant Majority Leader Chair, Illinois House Redistricting Committee

Testimony Submitted Via Email

Dear Chair Hernandez and Members of the Committee,

I want to thank the members of the Illinois House Redistricting Committee for your proactive outreach in requesting testimony regarding Illinois' redistricting process. I commend you for running an open and transparent process. As a local elected official for over 20 years, I know how important it is to hear from community members on matters of great importance to the public. Redistricting is often viewed as a controversial topic and it is important to seek viewpoints from as many stakeholders as possible.

High School District 214 provides a high-quality educational experience to 11,774 students via six comprehensive high schools and one specialized school. We serve 300,000 residents in the communities of Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, Rolling Meadows, Wheeling, and Des Plaines in a 68.30-square mile area and includes parts of Wheeling and Elk Grove Townships.

Our students come from many backgrounds, with more than 70 languages spoken at home and three of our schools have a majority-minority population. About a quarter of our students are identified as low-income, but we know that the need is much greater in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The District was founded in 1914 and over time went from mainly farming communities to the bustling suburban communities we see today. We regularly work with our 11 state representatives and senators and three members of Congress on issues affecting public education. We know that whoever is selected to represent our District in Springfield or Washington, DC, has our best interests in mind and will continue to partner with us to ensure we continue to have one of the premier school districts in Illinois.

I want to thank you again for reaching out to us and do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss our District in the future.

Sincerely,

F. Daniel Petro

President, Board of Education